

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1328

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR KS JA

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH KIM YONG-SAM

REF: SEOUL 1245 DTG 200754Z FEB 76

SUMMARY: DURING LUNCHEON WITH AMBASSADOR FEB. 23, NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM DISCUSSED HIS RECENT TRIP TO JAPAN, PARTICULARLY LOCKHEED SCANDAL. ON THE ROK DOMESTIC SCENE, KIM SAID HE SEES CHANCE OF SPRING CAMPUS ACTIVITY, IS NOT WORRIED ABOUT HIS OWN PROSECUTION INDICTMENT, AND IS CONFIDENT OF RETAINING PARTY LEADERSHIP IN MAY NDP CONVENTION. KIM WISHES TO VISIT U.S. IN JUNE OR JULY. END SUMMARY.

1. MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING KIM'S TRIP TO JAPAN WAS LOCKHEED SCANDAL. KIM SAID THAT SCANDAL HAD CREATED CRISIS IN LDP AND TALK OF RESTRUCTURING PARTY SYSTEMS. IN ADDITION HE HAD LEARNED OF POSSIBLE ROK INVOLVEMENT STEMMING FROM LOCKHEED EFFORTS TO SELL TRISTARS TO KOREAN AIRLINES THROUGH KENJI OSANO. HOWEVER, IN THE END KAL DID NOT BUY TRISTARS. ALSO ALMOST TEN YEARS AGO YUSHIO KODAMA VISITED ROK SEVERAL TIMES AND SAW PRESIDENT PARK AND FORMER CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL PROTECTIVE
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FORCE PAK CHONG-KYU.

2. DURING JAPAN VISIT KIM SAID HE WAS TOLD BY KAWAMURA OF THE DSP WHO HAD RECENTLY VISITED MOSCOW THAT THE SOVIETS, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND SPECIALISTS IN KOREAN AFFAIRS, WANT CLOSER TIES WITH ROK. HOWEVER, THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY PROTESTS STRONGLY ALL ATTEMPTS AT ROK-SOVIET EXCHANGE. SOVIETS, HOWEVER, HAVE CONTINUED EXCHANGE OF BOOKS WITH ROK.

3. ON ROK DOMESTIC SCENE KIM SAID THAT HE SEES GOOD POSSIBILITY OF STUDENT ACTIVITY IN SPRING, ALTHOUGH KCIA HAS STUDENTS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS UNDER TIGHT CONTROL. KIM REMARKED THAT FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT PARK HE HAD IMPRESSION NO LATITUDE WILL BE PERMITTED STUDENTS.

4. KIM THINKS THE MARCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION WILL BE UNEVENTFUL AND RESTRICTED TO SELECTING SPEAKER, VICE SPEAKERS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. HOWEVER, HE EXPECTS RENEWED ACTIVITY AND PROBLEMS DURING THE FALL REGULAR SESSION.

5. REGARDING OWN FORTUNES, KIM SAID HE IS NOT WORRIED ABOUT HIS JAN. 21 INDICTMENT ON EMERGENCY MEASURES CHARGES. HE THINKS PROSECUTOR ISSUED INDICTMENT ON HIS OWN SINCE KCIA WAS SURPRISED BY MOVE AND KIM CHONG-PIL WHILE STILL PRIME MINISTER OFFERED TO SETTLE CASE FOR KIM. TURNING TO UPCOMING NDP CONVENTION IN MAY KIM EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN RETAINING PARTY LEADERSHIP. HE SAID HE COULD WIN EVEN IN UNLIKELY EVENT OTHER FACTIONS JOINED FORCES. HIS GREATEST PROBLEM WITHIN PARTY IS TO SELECT A NDP REPLACEMENT FOR YI CHOL-SUNG AS ASSEMBLY VICE SPEAKER; ALL FACTIONAL LEADERS ARE IN CONTENTION FOR THE JOB.

6. KIM INDICATED THAT AFTER THE CONVENTION, IN LATE JUNE OR JULY, HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES.
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